

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 819

By Finney

A RESOLUTION to commend Michael J. Stephens for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Stephens is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his legislative service as Policy Director for the Senate Democratic Caucus and staff advisor to Senator Lowe Finney, Mr. Stephens has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the Tennessee General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding young man, Mike Stephens is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Clemson University and has been accepted for admittance to the Wake Forest School of Law in the Fall of 2014; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stephens played an integral role in the research and development of Caucus policy and worked passionately on such issues as poverty, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education, transparency in government, ethics and accountability in government, and protecting our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to the political process, Mike Stephens is a former Deputy Director of Finance for the Tennessee Democratic Party and served as Finance Director for the Andy Berke for State Senate campaign in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens also served as a legislative intern for State Senator Andy Berke in 2010 and has volunteered his time to work as campaign staff for local races on numerous occasions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legislative internship with the General Assembly, Mike Stephens has also completed prestigious internships with The Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies in Chattanooga and the Hamilton County Development Department; and

WHEREAS, Mike Stephens' remarkable success as a public servant is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Michael J. Stephens is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Michael J. Stephens for his honorable and distinguished service to the good people of Tennessee as Policy Director for the Senate Democratic Caucus and staff advisor to Senator Lowe Finney and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.